THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, powers of search, seizure, arrest and conducting of investigations have been vested with a number of Central and State enforcement agencies. While a system of quick reporting on search, seizure, arrest, etc. in the prescribed formats has been devised, reports from some agencies have not been received. As per data available with the Narcotics Control Bureau, out of 11,088 persons prosecuted under the aforesaid Act, (since its enactment), cases have been decided in respect of 1,840 persons, of whom 962 persons have been convicted. The percentage of convicttion works out to 52 per cent (appx.). As all cases where judgements had been pronounced might not have been reported to the Bureau, the percentage of conviction, out of the total number of cases decided, could still be higher. Nevertheless, the court proceedings tend to be protecting and a number of cases pending in the courts are also high. In order to expedite the disposal of pending cases, the State Governments have been advised to set up special courts depending upon the workload.

No shortcomings in the Act, or for the matter, in the investigations, nor deficiencies in the law enforcing machinery under the above Act have been noticed. However, a draft legislation to amend the Act in certain areas to make it more effective is at an advanced stage of finalization.

हरिजन पुलिस स्टेशन

3524. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार राज्यों को विशेष हरिजन पुलिस स्टेशनों के लिए अतिरिक्त स्टाफ देने और विभिन्न राज्यों में उन्हें अधिक संसाधन देकर अधिक प्रभावशाली बनाने के लिये कोई विशेष वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध करायेगी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं जहां इस उद्देश्य के लिये वित्तीय सहायता दी गई है अथवा दी जाने वाली है और प्रत्येक मामले में सहायता की राशि कितनी है ; और

(ग) केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा अन्य क्या क्या कदम उठाये जा रहें है ? ताकि हरिजन पुलिस स्टेशन अपनी भूमिका अधिक प्रभाव शाली ढंग से निभा सकें ?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्) :

(क) से (ग) "लोक व्यवस्था" और "पुलिस" के विषय संविधान की सातवीं अनुसूची की राज्य सूची में शामिल हैं। इसलिय अपने पुलिस स्टेशनों के लिये स्टाफ की व्यवस्था करना और विशेष हरिजन पुलिस स्टेशन खोलना राज्य सरकारों का कार्य है । फिर भी, केन्द्रीय सरकार 8वें वित्त आयोग के निर्णय के अधीन नये पुलिस स्टेशन खोलने के लिये राज्य सरकारों को सहायता देती है ।

Date on the arrests of Children

3525. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Police Research and Development have recently compiled some data about the arrests of children in the country;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the Bureau, report; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to check the exploitation of children in custody and to provide better conditions in Children's Homes, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 'Prison' being a State subject it is primarily for the State Governments to take measures to check the exploitation of children in custody and provide better conditions for their well-being. However,

as per provisions of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, in force since 2-10-1987, no Juvenile is to be kept in jail. They are kept in Juvenile Homes' set up by the State Governments. These Homes not only provide education, vocational training and rehabilitation but also facilities for the development of their character and abilities.

Counter trade deals by MMTC

3526. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minerales and Metals Trading Corporation is losing its clout in the international market to clinch counter trade deals; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken by Government to generate more exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Due to streng'hening of global commodity markets, MMTC has found it difficult in the recent past to develop counter trade exports.

It has, however, made efforts and succeeded in obtaining counter trade obligations against a number of import items like sulphur, muriate of potash, rock phosphate, steel, etc. It is trying to promote exports of canalised and non-canalised items by extensive marketing efforts.

Concern expressed by the environmental experts on setting up of fertilizer plant near Sawaimadhopur

3527. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer plant proposed to be set up near Sawaimadhopur in Rajasthan will contaminate the water of the Banas river,

(b) whether the high-level Central Committee of Environmental experts expressed concern over this aspect; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Having regard to the volume of liquid effluents likely to be discharged from a fertiliser plant of this magnitude and the quantum of water flows in the Banas river, the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests has expressed concern on the likely adverse effect on the environment, should the fertiliser plant be located in this area.

(c) The suitability, from environmental angle, of the various alternative sites suggested for this project in Rajasthan are still under examination.

Modernisation of Textile Industry

3528. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation of the textile industry has suffered due to the high cost; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Governemnt to bring down the modernisation costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES: (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) While modernisation may be costly in a few areas of the textile industry, it does not appear that its cost is high as a whole, judging from the industry's response to the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme.

(b) The excise duty has been reduced on certain items of textile machinery reuired for modernisation in the 1988-89 Budget, the export obligation scheme for the import of certain, items of sophisticated machinery at concessional rates of duty has been continued etc.